The Emerald Ash Borer:

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), a non-native insect that kills all species of Ash trees, was discovered in New Jersey in May 2014 in Somerset County. This highly destructive insect has killed millions of Ash trees including trees in Leonia. The EAB larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves water and nutrients to the tree. The EAB often infects the upper branches of the tree first. It takes 2 to 4 years for the infested tree to die.

The NJDEP State Forestry Services recommends:

- IDENTIFY Ash trees. Ash species have opposite branches and leaves and a compound leaf with 5-11 leaflets. The bark on older trees has a unique diamond-shaped ridge bark, but younger trees may have smoother bark.
- MONITOR your Ash trees for the EAB. You will know when the risk of mortality becomes urgent. Look for dying branches at the top of the tree, woodpecker damage, S-shaped galleries under the bark, d-shaped holes, bark splits, and green adult beetles.

To determine the health of your Ash trees, consult an arborist or Licensed Tree Expert.

For more information, the following websites are helpful:

- NJ Department of Agriculture

  https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/emeraldashborer.html

- The United States Department of Agriculture

www.aphis.usda.gov

- The United States Forestry Service website.

  https://www.fs.usda.gov/

The Spotted Lantern Fly:

The Spotted Lantern fly ("SLF") is a pest new to the United States. This invasive plant hopper, initially discovered in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 2014, is native to Southeast Asia and poses a threat to forests, ornamental trees, orchards, vegetables, grapes, hops, and other agricultural crops. The SLF has spread throughout Pennsylvania and into New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia and New York. This insect has been spotted in parts of Mercer, Hunterdon, Warren, Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Salem and Somerset counties in New Jersey.

Beginning in fall, the SLFs lay seed like eggs clustered together and covered in gray, putty-like masses. These are typically found on tree trunks and surfaces such as scrap wood, outdoor furniture, and outdoor equipment. In spring, the insect hatches from the egg masses and are black with white spots. Red patches appear as the nymph matures. Nymph and adult SLFs cause extensive damage when they feed on the trunk and limbs of plants. During feeding, SLF excretes significant amounts of honey dew (or sugar water) which provide a food source for a sooty mold fungus that can grow on plant surfaces and fruit quickly resulting in damage to the tree's health.

To help survey efforts, please report sightings with photograph to: slanternfly@njaes.rutgers.edu.

Additional resources:
https://njaes.rutgers.edu/spotted-lanternfly/

https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/pi/prog/spottedlanternfly.html